



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Canberra



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PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1988, SUMMARY

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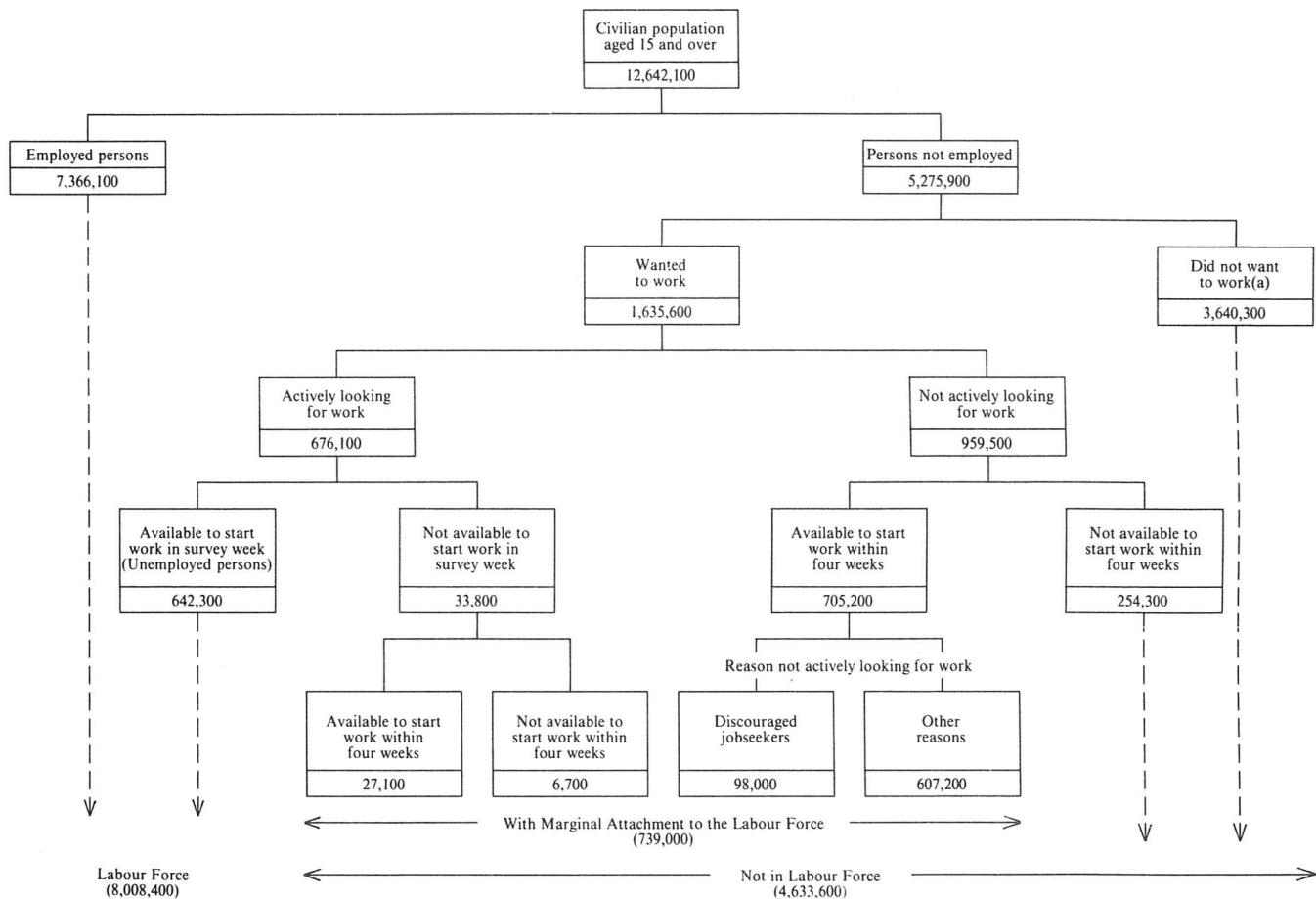
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MAIN FEATURES

DIAGRAM 1. RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE TO PERSONS IN OR NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, MARCH 1988



(a) Includes institutionalised, boarding school pupils and persons permanently unable to work.

- **Persons Not in the Labour Force.** In March 1988 persons not in the labour force numbered 4,633,600 comprising 36.7 per cent of the civilian population aged 15 and over.

- **Marginal Attachment to the Labour Force.** There were an estimated 739,000 persons with marginal attachment to the labour force in March 1988 comprising 15.9 per cent of persons not in the labour force. The same group numbered

709,800 in March 1987 and 707,300 in March 1986. About 95.4 per cent of persons in this group in March 1988 wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks but they were not actively looking for work.

- **Discouraged Jobseekers.** The number of discouraged jobseekers in March 1988 (98,000) showed little change from the estimated number (100,200) in March 1987. In March 1988 41.7 per

cent of discouraged jobseekers reported that their main reason for not actively looking for work was that they were considered too young or too old by employers, and a further 30.8 per cent reported that there were no jobs in their locality or line of work.

- **Intention to Look for Work.** Some 41.8 per cent of persons with marginal attachment to the labour force intended to look for work in the next twelve months, while a further 18.3 per cent stated that they might look. Of the 254,300

persons who wanted to work but were not marginally attached to the labour force, only 28.5 per cent stated that they intended to look, while 19.3 per cent stated that they might look.

- **Type of Work Preferred.** Almost three-quarters of persons with marginal attachment to the labour force preferred to work part-time while 22.6 per cent stated a full-time preference. This distribution was different for persons who wanted to work but were not marginally attached to the labour force (63.0 per cent preferred to work part-time and 30.6 per cent full-time).

DIAGRAM 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : SELECTED GROUPS

(Source of data : Table 1)

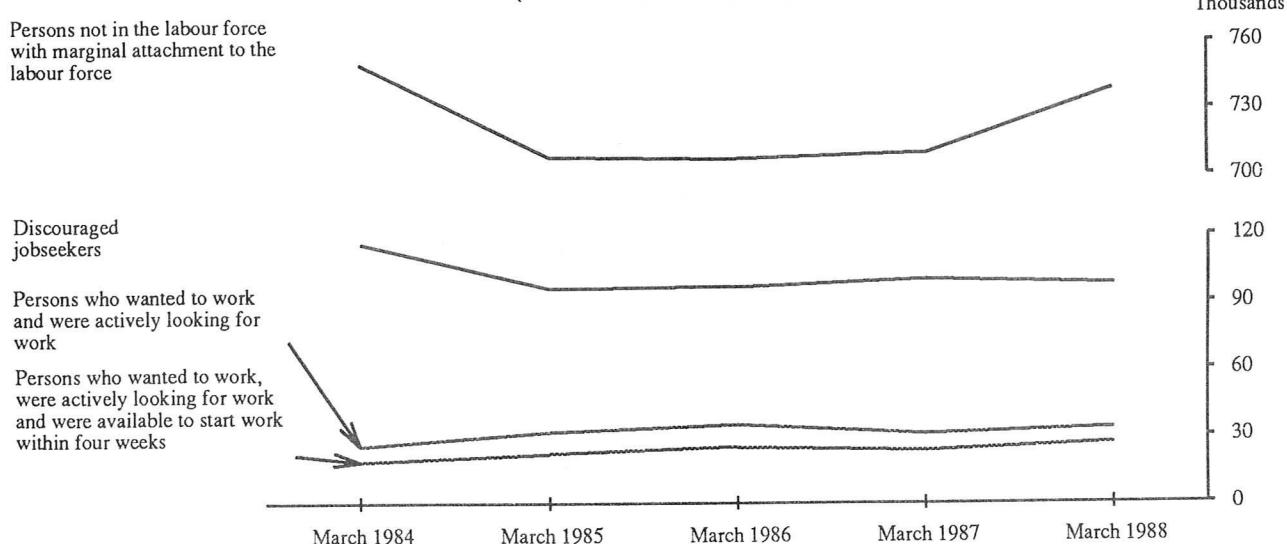


TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER : LABOUR FORCE STATUS,
MARCH 1985 TO MARCH 1988
('000)

	March 1985	Sept. 1985	March 1986	Sept. 1986	March 1987	March 1988
Civilian population aged 15 and over	11,897.3	11,998.5	12,121.7	12,249.5	12,394.7	12,642.1
Employed	6,634.5	6,783.9	6,926.3	7,007.6	7,109.1	7,366.1
Unemployed	671.7	587.7	640.4	631.6	702.5	642.3
Persons not in the labour force	4,591.1	4,626.9	4,555.1	4,610.3	4,583.1	4,633.6
With marginal attachment to the labour force	708.3	739.7	707.3	749.4	709.8	739.0
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	32.1	60.4	35.2	57.2	31.1	33.8
Were available to start work within four weeks	22.2	30.2	25.0	26.9	23.6	27.1
Were not available to start work within four weeks	9.9	30.2	10.2	30.3	7.6	6.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	676.3	679.4	672.1	692.1	678.7	705.2
Discouraged jobseekers	96.0	89.0	96.8	90.5	100.2	98.0
Other	580.3	590.4	575.3	601.6	578.5	607.2
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	3,882.8	3,887.1	3,847.8	3,860.9	3,873.3	3,894.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	222.7	265.2	261.4	262.7	235.5	254.3
Did not want to work	3,399.1	3,380.1	3,340.8	3,345.3	3,368.8	3,382.8
Permanently unable to work	54.4	47.8	51.1	57.2	46.8	55.2
Institutionalised(a) and boarding school pupils	206.6	194.1	194.4	195.8	222.1	202.3

(a) Includes some patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of reformatories, gaols etc.

**TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE:
MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1985 TO MARCH 1988
('000)**

	March 1985	Sept. 1985	March 1986	Sept. 1986	March 1987	March 1988
MALES						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	14.8	24.9	14.0	26.5	12.1	13.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	138.5	141.9	145.8	138.9	160.4	171.9
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>	*	*	*	*	4.9	*
Had a job to go to	94.7	97.5	98.5	96.9	111.1	121.1
Personal reasons	5.3	4.3	*	*	*	6.2
Family reasons	19.7	19.5	24.9	20.9	25.4	22.6
Discouraged jobseekers	*	*	*	*	*	*
No jobs in suitable hours	7.4	10.6	9.8	10.6	9.7	12.3
Other reasons	*	*	*	*	*	*
Did not know	4.6	*	*	*	*	*
Not asked(a)						
<i>Total</i>	153.3	166.8	159.9	165.4	172.6	185.5
FEMALES						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	17.3	35.5	21.1	30.7	19.0	20.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	537.8	537.5	526.3	553.2	518.2	533.3
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>	5.7	8.4	8.3	7.6	6.2	8.1
Had a job to go to	168.8	158.7	152.5	153.0	154.6	164.4
Personal reasons	38.9	39.5	36.3	33.6	36.8	43.3
Own ill health, physical disability, pregnancy	54.3	50.9	57.3	55.5	58.0	65.4
Attending an educational institution	38.2	34.0	31.0	32.3	28.1	26.2
Had no need to work	8.5	6.0	4.0	6.4	4.9	6.1
Give others a chance	17.6	14.7	14.8	12.9	15.6	13.5
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	11.3	13.6	9.2	12.2	11.2	9.9
Moved house/holidays	232.9	244.1	237.8	263.5	235.5	236.3
Family reasons	8.7	13.2	12.4	11.0	11.7	11.0
Ill health of other than self	72.7	71.8	69.4	71.9	67.6	79.5
Unable to find suitable childcare	113.6	124.6	116.3	138.7	116.1	106.8
Children too young/preferred to look after children	37.9	34.4	39.8	42.0	40.0	39.0
Other family considerations	76.3	69.6	71.9	69.6	74.8	75.5
Discouraged jobseekers	22.5	22.4	24.3	20.1	27.2	27.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	4.1	4.2	4.2	*	*	5.6
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	10.0	7.4	9.8	8.6	10.4	10.9
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	27.4	21.6	22.9	27.8	24.1	24.2
No jobs in locality or line of work	12.4	14.0	10.7	9.7	9.8	7.0
No jobs at all	15.8	15.6	16.4	15.4	10.7	13.4
No jobs in suitable hours	22.3	25.6	24.8	30.3	19.4	21.7
Other reasons	8.7	7.2	7.8	5.8	8.2	4.7
Did not know	7.2	8.3	6.7	8.0	8.9	9.2
Not asked(a)						
<i>Total</i>	555.1	573.0	547.4	584.0	537.3	553.6
PERSONS						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	32.1	60.4	35.2	57.2	31.1	33.8
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	676.3	679.4	672.1	692.1	678.7	705.2
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>	9.1	11.2	11.7	9.9	11.1	12.5
Had a job to go to	263.5	256.2	251.0	249.9	265.7	285.5
Personal reasons	65.8	69.1	63.0	56.5	63.7	77.3
Own ill health, physical disability, pregnancy	104.9	102.3	111.1	106.9	119.8	128.3
Attending an educational institution	44.7	41.3	38.2	40.0	38.9	34.0
Had no need to work	9.1	6.2	4.5	7.4	5.5	6.7
Give others a chance	24.2	19.6	19.6	21.3	22.1	20.0
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	14.7	17.8	14.7	17.8	15.6	19.3
Moved house/holidays	238.2	248.4	241.4	267.3	239.3	242.5
Family reasons	11.0	14.8	12.9	11.6	13.1	13.1
Ill health of other than self	73.6	72.5	70.1	72.6	68.2	81.0
Unable to find suitable childcare	115.0	126.1	117.5	140.2	117.2	108.2
Children too young/preferred to look after children	38.6	34.9	40.9	43.0	40.8	40.2
Other family considerations	96.0	89.0	96.8	90.5	100.2	98.0
Discouraged jobseekers	31.0	32.2	37.6	31.3	40.4	40.9
Considered too young or too old by employers	4.7	5.0	5.2	4.0	4.2	6.0
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	11.2	8.9	11.5	10.2	12.5	12.6
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	33.0	26.0	29.1	33.3	31.5	30.2
No jobs in locality or line of work	16.1	16.8	13.4	11.7	11.6	8.4
No jobs at all	17.7	18.4	17.5	16.5	11.8	14.9
No jobs in suitable hours	29.7	36.4	34.6	40.9	29.1	34.0
Other reasons	10.3	8.0	9.0	6.6	9.0	6.1
Did not know	11.9	12.0	10.1	10.7	12.4	11.6
Not asked(a)						
<i>Total</i>	708.3	739.7	707.3	749.4	709.8	739.0

(a) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, MARCH 1988
('000)

	Persons who wanted to work and were actively looking for work			Persons who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks			Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force		
	Were available to start work within four weeks	Were not available to start work within four weeks	Total	Discouraged job-seekers	Other	Total	Males	Females	Persons
<i>Age group-</i>									
15-19	5.0	*	7.3	7.9	128.1	136.1	66.6	76.8	143.3
20-24	*	*	4.9	*	62.2	64.9	21.1	48.7	69.8
25-34	9.0	*	10.6	15.3	168.0	183.2	18.2	175.6	193.8
35-44	4.5	*	6.3	19.0	120.3	139.3	14.7	130.8	145.5
45-54	*	*	*	15.4	57.8	73.2	14.5	61.8	76.3
55-59	*	*	*	11.6	25.6	37.1	11.7	26.4	38.0
60-64	*	*	*	10.7	25.0	35.7	18.8	17.3	36.1
65 and over	*	*	*	15.5	20.2	35.7	19.9	16.2	36.1
<i>Family status-</i>									
Member of a family	22.1	5.6	27.6	80.9	522.4	603.2	145.0	485.8	630.9
Husband or wife	11.1	*	13.7	62.4	321.8	384.2	58.7	339.2	397.9
With dependents present	9.4	*	11.7	30.5	245.3	275.9	19.5	268.0	287.5
Without dependents present	*	*	*	31.9	76.5	108.3	39.2	71.2	110.4
Not-married family head	*	*	5.0	8.7	71.8	80.5	7.2	78.3	85.4
With dependents present	*	*	4.7	7.0	61.7	68.8	4.8	68.6	73.4
Without dependents present	*	*	*	*	10.0	11.7	*	9.7	12.0
Full-time student aged 15-24(a)	*	*	4.8	4.5	104.6	109.1	60.7	53.1	113.8
Other child of family head	*	*	*	*	20.4	24.3	16.0	12.0	28.0
Other relative of family head	*	*	*	*	*	5.2	*	*	5.8
Not a member of a family	*	*	*	12.1	46.0	58.1	25.2	36.6	61.8
Living alone	*	*	*	10.6	27.5	38.1	14.2	25.7	39.9
Not living alone	*	*	*	*	18.5	19.9	11.0	10.9	21.9
Family status not determined	*	*	*	5.1	38.8	43.9	15.2	31.1	46.3
<i>Type of work preferred-</i>									
Full-time	12.8	*	15.3	24.0	127.6	151.6	78.7	88.3	167.0
Part-time	13.4	*	17.4	67.3	456.4	523.8	99.6	441.6	541.2
No preference	*	*	*	6.6	23.2	29.8	7.2	23.6	30.9
<i>Time since last job-</i>									
Had had a job	23.3	5.0	28.3	87.7	507.2	594.9	134.5	488.8	623.2
Under 12 months	13.6	*	15.9	15.2	157.5	172.8	67.8	120.9	188.7
Under 6 months	10.9	*	12.2	7.6	109.0	116.6	48.7	80.1	128.8
6 and under 12 months	*	*	*	7.7	48.5	56.2	19.1	40.8	59.9
1 and under 3 years	5.1	*	6.2	17.3	105.9	123.2	29.3	100.1	129.4
3 and under 5 years	*	*	*	10.8	63.0	73.8	13.6	62.9	76.4
5 and under 10 years	*	*	*	18.3	89.6	108.0	16.0	94.4	110.4
10 and under 20 years	*	*	*	16.8	74.8	91.6	7.5	84.7	92.3
20 years or more	*	*	*	9.2	16.4	25.6	*	25.8	26.0
Had never had a job	*	*	5.6	10.3	99.9	110.2	51.0	64.8	115.8
<i>Reason for ceasing last job-</i>									
Had had a job	23.3	5.0	28.3	87.7	507.2	594.9	134.5	488.8	623.2
Job loser	9.1	*	11.2	33.0	155.1	188.2	62.1	137.2	199.3
Retrenched	*	*	5.6	15.4	52.9	68.3	23.6	50.3	73.9
Job was temporary or seasonal and did not leave to return to studies	*	*	*	9.4	40.0	49.4	8.8	43.9	52.6
Own ill health or injury	*	*	*	6.2	53.1	59.3	26.7	34.5	61.2
Business closed down for economic reasons	*	*	*	*	9.2	11.2	*	8.6	11.6
Job leaver	14.2	*	17.1	54.7	340.4	395.1	70.0	342.3	412.3
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	*	4.7	21.3	26.0	5.5	23.0	28.4
Job was temporary or seasonal and left to return to studies	*	*	*	*	14.0	14.6	9.1	7.0	16.1
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	*	*	13.5	35.9	49.4	24.1	25.6	49.7
Returned to studies	*	*	*	*	24.3	24.3	11.7	14.4	26.1
To get married	*	*	*	6.7	32.1	38.8	*	39.2	39.4
Pregnancy/to have children	*	*	*	9.7	123.0	132.7	*	136.3	136.4
To look after family, house or someone else	*	*	*	4.6	29.5	34.2	*	31.8	35.5
To have holidays/to move house/spouse transferred	*	*	*	9.6	39.7	49.3	6.7	46.5	53.2
Business closed down for other reasons	*	*	*	*	9.3	12.5	5.0	8.0	13.0
Other	*	*	*	*	11.4	13.6	*	10.5	14.5
Not asked(b)	..	..	..	..	11.6	11.6	*	9.2	11.6
Had never had a job	*	*	5.6	10.3	99.9	110.2	51.0	64.8	115.8
Total	27.1	6.7	33.8	98.0	607.2	705.2	185.5	553.6	739.0

(a) Excludes persons aged 20 to 24 attending school. (b) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED, MARCH 1988
('000)

	Intention to look for work in the next twelve months					Type of work preferred			
	Intended to look	Might look	Did not intend to look	Did not know	Not asked(a)	Full-time	Part-time	No preference	Total
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	..	..	..	..	33.8	15.3	17.4	*	33.8
Were available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	..	27.1	12.8	13.4	*	27.1
Were not available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	..	6.7	*	*	*	6.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	309.0	135.2	203.7	33.1	24.2	151.6	523.8	29.8	705.2
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work-</i>									
Had a job to go to	..	..	..	..	12.5	7.6	*	*	12.5
Personal reasons	152.6	48.4	74.3	10.3	..	75.6	199.7	10.2	285.5
Own ill health, physical disability pregnancy	35.9	15.8	22.5	*	..	27.5	44.6	5.1	77.3
Attending an educational institution	85.8	17.4	21.9	*	..	33.1	93.5	*	128.3
Had no need to work	8.6	7.4	16.1	*	..	*	31.0	*	34.0
Give others a chance	*	*	*	*	..	*	6.1	*	6.7
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	5.2	*	9.2	*	..	*	15.6	*	20.0
Moved house/holidays	16.7	*	*	*	..	9.3	9.0	*	19.3
Family reasons	85.8	58.5	83.7	14.5	..	28.7	204.5	9.3	242.5
Ill health of other than self	5.6	*	*	*	..	*	10.3	*	13.1
Unable to find suitable childcare	22.2	18.0	35.7	5.0	..	9.1	68.3	*	81.0
Children too young/preferred to look after children	43.6	26.5	31.7	6.4	..	12.1	92.2	*	108.2
Other family considerations	14.4	10.7	12.4	*	..	4.7	33.7	*	40.2
Discouraged jobseekers	41.1	17.4	34.5	5.1	..	24.0	67.3	6.6	98.0
Considered too young or too old by employers	9.6	5.1	23.8	*	..	7.2	30.3	*	40.9
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	*	*	*	*	..	*	*	*	6.0
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	6.2	*	*	*	..	*	9.1	*	12.6
No jobs in locality or line of work	17.4	7.5	4.6	*	..	8.3	20.3	*	30.2
No jobs at all	5.3	*	*	*	..	*	5.3	*	8.4
No jobs in suitable hours	8.3	*	*	*	..	*	13.9	*	14.9
Other reasons	18.6	5.5	8.8	*	..	10.0	22.4	*	34.0
Did not know	*	*	*	*	..	*	4.6	*	6.1
Not asked(b)	..	..	..	..	11.6	*	6.9	*	11.6
Total	309.0	135.2	203.7	33.1	58.0	167.0	541.2	30.9	739.0

(a) Comprises persons who had a job to go to, persons who took active steps to find work, and persons as defined in footnote(b). (b) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

TABLE 5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK BUT WERE NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS : REASON NOT AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS, INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED, MARCH 1988
('000)

Reason not available to start work within four weeks	Intention to look for work in the next twelve months					Type of work preferred			
	Intended to look	Might look	Did not intend to look	Did not know	Not asked(a)	Full-time	Part-time	No preference	Total
Personal reasons	44.9	28.3	51.7	9.2	5.0	59.6	69.4	10.0	139.0
Own ill health or injury, physical disability, or pregnancy	18.3	16.9	34.8	7.8	*	32.8	41.7	7.1	81.6
Studying	21.1	8.8	12.1	*	*	23.9	18.0	*	43.8
At school	12.9	6.9	10.4	*	*	15.5	14.2	*	31.1
Other educational institution	8.1	*	*	*	*	8.4	*	*	12.8
Moved house/holidays	5.5	*	4.7	*	*	*	9.7	*	13.6
Family reasons	21.5	17.8	41.0	*	10.8	11.9	76.4	5.3	93.6
Ill health of other than self	*	*	5.3	*	*	*	8.7	*	11.5
Unable to find suitable childcare	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.0	*	12.2
Children too young/preferred to look after children	15.6	11.7	31.4	*	10.0	8.8	57.7	*	69.9
Other reasons	6.3	*	9.2	*	*	6.2	14.3	*	21.7
Total	72.6	49.1	102.0	13.7	17.0	77.8	160.1	16.5	254.3
Males	21.6	12.9	22.6	5.5	*	39.8	19.8	5.5	65.1
Females	51.0	36.2	79.3	8.2	14.5	38.0	140.3	10.9	189.3

(a) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY

Available to start work within four weeks: those persons who were available to start work within four weeks or could start work if childcare was available.

Discouraged jobseekers: persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks but whose main reason for not taking active steps to find work was that they believed they would not be able to find a job for any of the following reasons: considered to be too young or too old by employers; difficulties with language or ethnic background; lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience; no jobs in their locality or line of work; or no jobs at all.

Job: any employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

Job leavers: persons who voluntarily ceased their last job.

Job losers: persons who involuntarily ceased their last job.

Marginal attachment to the labour force: persons who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and-

- (a) were actively looking for work but did not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; or
- (b) were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if childcare was available.

The criteria determining those in the labour force are based on actual activity (i.e. working or looking for work) during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work, reasons for not actively looking for work and availability to start work, are more

subjective and are not based on the respondents' actual activity. Hence, the measurement of these criteria is affected by the respondents' own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation is affected by such factors as the respondent's work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

Not in the labour force and wanted to work: persons who-

- (a) in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week had taken *active steps* to find work but did not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; or
- (b) although claiming to have looked for work (in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week), had not taken active steps to find work; or
- (c) in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week had not looked for work but in the survey answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question '*Even though you have not been looking for work would you like a full-time or part-time job?*'; or
- (d) in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week had not looked for work but were responsible for children under twelve years of age and answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question '*If you had child care arrangements for your child(ren) under 12, would you like a job?*'.

Persons not in the labour force: persons who do not meet the criteria that would enable them to be classified as being in the labour force. To be classified as being in the labour force, a person must be aged 15 or over and be either *employed* or *unemployed*. Persons not in the labour force, therefore, include all persons aged 15 and over who are not employed, who want to work but do not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; who do not want to work; or who, through incapacity or infirmity, cannot work.

APPENDIX 2

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The monthly population survey (which is described in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. This publication contains some results of a supplementary survey run in association with the March 1988 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. They were asked about their labour force aspirations and, if appropriate, their reasons for not actively looking for work and their availability for work.

Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) except that it was restricted to persons not in the labour force.

Coverage

4. In the population survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. See *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) for more details.

Definitions

5. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication relate to the week before the interview (i.e. the reference week).

6. Definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

Results of the survey

7. Estimates of persons not in the labour force are also published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). However, more detailed information is contained in this publication.

8. Due to differences in the method of estimation used in this supplementary survey and that used in the labour force survey, there are some small variations between estimates in this publication and those in the corresponding issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

9. The estimates in this publication refer to information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

10. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. A more detailed publication *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (6220.0) will be released as soon as possible. Tables of unpublished data may be purchased on request.

11. Results of similar surveys, which have been conducted each March and September since March 1979 (except September 1987), and also in May 1977 and November 1975, have been published in *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (6220.0).

12. It is proposed that this survey will be conducted next in September 1988.

Discontinuities in the series

13. Estimates from September 1986 contained in this publication are based on a revised labour force questionnaire introduced in April 1986. The definition of employment was expanded resulting in a slight decrease in the estimate of persons not in the labour force. Further information is contained in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) and in an information paper *Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (6232.0). Although estimates for previous years have not been revised in this publication, the April 1986 issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) contains revised estimates for persons not in the labour force back to March 1985.

Survey sample redesign

14. A redesigned and reselected labour force survey sample was phased in over the period September to December 1987. As a result, the standard errors used in this survey differ from those used in surveys of the same topic run prior to September 1987. For details, see *Information Paper — Labour Force Survey — Sample Design* (6269.0)

Reliability of the estimates

15. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

(a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from those that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. More information about this topic is contained in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). A table of estimated standard errors for this survey follows these notes. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although, in some cases, estimates for these small components can be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable.

(b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may

occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Related publications

16. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — issued monthly

Labour Force Experience, Australia (6206.0) — issued annually

Underemployed Workers, Australia, May 1985 (6265.0) — issued irregularly

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, June 1986 (6222.0) — issued two yearly

Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia (6246.0) — issued irregularly

Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia, June 1986 (6245.0) — issued irregularly

17. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 15 above.
- . . . not applicable.

18. Because estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Electronic services

VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

FLOPPY DISK. Preliminary labour force survey estimates are available on floppy disk. For further information phone (062) 52 6683.

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STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	Number	Relative standard error (per cent)	Size of estimate	Number	Relative standard error (per cent)
4,500	1,100	24.6	200,000	6,300	3.1
5,000	1,150	23.4	300,000	7,300	2.4
6,000	1,300	21.4	500,000	8,900	1.8
10,000	1,650	16.5	1,000,000	11,500	1.2
20,000	2,300	11.5	2,000,000	14,600	0.7
50,000	3,500	7.0	5,000,000	19,700	0.4
100,000	4,700	4.7	10,000,000	24,200	0.2

